



Iowa General Assembly

2008 Committee Briefings

Legislative Services Agency – Legal Services Division

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Committees/Committee.aspx?id=49>

STUDIES COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Meeting Dates: [June 12, 2008](#)

Purpose. *This compilation of briefings on legislative interim committee meetings and other meetings and topics of interest to the Iowa General Assembly, written by the Legal Services Division staff of the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency, describes committee activities or topics. The briefings were originally distributed in the Iowa Legislative Interim Calendar and Briefing. Official minutes, reports, and other detailed information concerning the committee or topic addressed by a briefing can be obtained from the committee's Internet page listed above, from the Iowa General Assembly's Internet page at <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/>, or from the agency connected with the meeting or topic described.*

STUDIES COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

June 12, 2008

Chairperson: Senator Michael E. Gronstal

Vice Chairperson: Representative Mary Mascher

Overview. The Studies Committee considered information regarding interim studies contained in 2008 legislation and recommended the actions listed in this briefing. The recommendations were approved by the Legislative Council, with the addition of the study relating to the effects of flooding on the livestock industry.

Studies Deadline. The previously approved deadline for completion of the 2008 Interim studies is December 15, 2008.

2008 Interim Studies. Studies were authorized for the 2008 Interim with the indicated number of members and meeting days to address the following topics:

Criminal Code Reorganization Study Committee (Carryover from 2007 Interim)

Charge. Meet during the 2007 and 2008 interims to consider proposals for Criminal Code revisions, reorganization, and updates.

Members. 3 Senate/3 House/8 voting public members appointed by leaders to represent each of the following: Professor from University of Iowa College of Law, Professor from Drake University Law School, district court judge, Iowa Attorney General, State Public Defender, Iowa County Attorneys Association, Iowa Board of Parole, and Department of Corrections. The Committee and its subcommittees are authorized to hold meetings outside the Des Moines area.

Meeting Days. 2 days for 2008

Legislative Property Tax Study Committee (Carryover from 2007 Interim)

Charge. The Legislative Property Tax Study Committee is established for the 2007 and 2008 legislative interims to perform a comprehensive review of the property tax system. The study committee may contract for analysis or other services. The cost for such contracting shall not exceed \$150,000.

Members. 5 Senate/5 House/9 nonvoting members appointed by leaders, including one who is engaged in economic development activities in the state/3 nonvoting executive branch agency members appointed by the Governor.

Meeting Days. 2 days for 2008

Effects of Flooding on Livestock Industry Study Committee

Charge. Consider the effects of the 2008 flooding on the Iowa livestock industry, including commodity prices, differential effects on small and large producers, financing issues, and effects on businesses associated with the livestock industry. The study committee shall consult with experts who can provide options to address the challenges

being confronted.

Members. 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days. 2

Energy Efficiency Plans and Programs Study Committee

Charge. Examine the existence and effectiveness of energy efficiency plans and programs implemented by gas and electric public utilities, with an emphasis on results achieved by current plans and programs from the demand, or customer perspective, and make recommendations for additional requirements applicable to energy efficiency plans and programs that would improve such results. In conducting the study and developing recommendations, the study committee shall consider testimony from the Iowa Utilities Board, rate and nonrate-regulated gas and electric utilities, the Consumer Advocate, state agencies involved with energy efficiency program administration, environmental groups and associations, and consumers.

Members. 5 Senate/5 House

Meeting Days. 2

Identity Theft Prevention Study Committee

Charge. Assess and review the extent to which personal, identifying information of a resident of this state is in the possession of government or government-affiliated organizations, and which, if disclosed, could render the resident vulnerable to identity theft. Also assess the extent to which public officials, government organizations, and affiliated organizations make available, are in possession of, have access to, or are disclosing or selling such information for compensation. Based upon this assessment and review, the committee shall develop recommendations relating to these practices.

Members. 3 Senate/3 House

Meeting Days. 1

Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Facility Analysis

Charge. Issue a request for proposals to contract for an independent entity to analyze and make recommendations for an optimal site and facilities for the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. The analysis shall address the considerations necessary for relocating the academy. The cost of the analysis shall not exceed \$150,000.

Members. 3 Senate/3 House members from the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on the Justice System

Meeting Days. 1

Mass Transit Study Committee

Charge. Study the ways in which mass transit might be employed to provide public transportation services among Iowa communities. Consider the ways mass transit availability affects various populations in rural and urban communities, particularly those who are unable to drive or cannot afford to own a motor vehicle; determine any impact mass transit among communities can have on population levels, quality of life, and economic development in urban job centers, small and satellite communities, and rural towns; identify the effect of mass transit on greenhouse gases and on overall air quality; determine the level of public need for mass transit, including any specific areas in immediate need; investigate the feasibility of expanding mass transit services and the types and combination of services that might comprise a state mass transit system; identify potential costs and funding mechanisms for developing and maintaining specific mass transit services; and assess the attitudes and habits of Iowans concerning personal transportation and ways to educate the public about the economic, social, and environmental advantages of mass transit. Consult with the interests listed in 2008 Iowa Acts, S.F. 2425, section 146, in conducting the study.

Members. 3 Senate/3 House

Meeting Days. 1

Medicaid Elderly Waiver Program Study Committee

Charge. Review the services, costs, and requirements under the Medicaid Home and Community-based Services Elderly Waiver Program. Consult with the Department of Human Services and persons interested in the program. Make recommendations for appropriate changes to the program.

Members. 3 Senate/3 House

Meeting Days. 1

Medicaid Program Drug Product Selection Study Committee

Charge. Convene public and private stakeholders to review current law for drug product selection under the Medicaid Program.

Members. 3 Senate/3 House

Meeting Days. 1

Postsecondary Education Rigor Analysis

Charge. Issue a request for proposals to contract for an independent entity to analyze and compare the rigor of the first two years of study at community colleges and institutions of higher education governed by the State Board of Regents. Make the report of the analysis publicly available by July 1, 2009. (Required by 2008 Iowa Acts, H.F. 2679, section 7)

Members. 3 Senate/3 House members who are involved with an education standing committee or joint appropriations subcommittee

Meeting Days. 1

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